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Committee on Conferences
Substantive session of 2002

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Ms. Radhia **Achouri** (Tunisia)

II. Calendar of conferences and meetings

C. Improved utilization of conference-servicing resources and facilities: United Nations Office at Nairobi

Introduction and overview

1. At its 444th meeting, on 9 September 2002, the Committee on Conferences was informed that a report on the facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi would be submitted as an addendum to document A/57/228.

2. At its 445th meeting, on 11 September 2002, the Acting Chief of Conference Services at Nairobi participated in a videoconference arranged by the Committee on Conferences, in which he orally reported on the utilization of conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi and possible improvement thereof.

Discussion

3. The Secretariat informed the Committee that as a result of the establishment of a permanent interpretation service at Nairobi, the number of meetings at which interpretation services had been provided had increased by 23.5 per cent in 2001 and the number of events held by 10 per cent. The severe constraint of adequate facilities posed a serious challenge for any further increase in utilization. The number and size of meeting rooms were inadequate, to the point where the library had to be dismantled on occasion to create more space. Interpretation equipment was also severely outdated. There was therefore an urgent need to expand and modernize the existing facilities and a report on the matter was currently being prepared for submission to the General Assembly. The report would include concrete proposals for modernizing equipment and expanding facilities, including the construction of a

full-membership meeting room and a new wing of offices to accommodate visiting secretariats. It would also contain proposals for management strengthening.

Conclusions and recommendations

4. **The Committee welcomed the efforts that had been made during the previous year to improve the utilization of conference services at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, but expressed regret that a written report on the subject had not been made available for consideration.**